

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01765 020713Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /120 W
-----080958 020732Z /21

R 301105Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7422
INFO USINT HAVANNA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1765

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, RQ, SY
SUBJ: NAMCC CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 074814

1. POLOFF RAISED QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO MARCH 30 WITH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION, MFA,
MAJDI JAZZAR. POLOFF LEFT SAID MEMOIRE CONTAINING TALKING
POINTS AND STRESSED USG'S HOPE THAT SYRIA WOULD FOLLOW LEAD
OF INDIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND SRI LANKA TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS
POSITIONS AND TO ENTER RESERVATIONS IF COORDINATING COMMITTEE
INCLUDES LANGUAGE CALLING FOR ACTION IN INTERNATIONAL
FORUMS.

2. JAZZAR SAID THAT BARRING UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS SYRIA
WOULD TAKE EXACTLY SAME POSITION AS IT TOOK LAST YEAR.
POLOFF ENCOURAGED JAZZAR TO GO FURTHER THIS TIME IN HELPING
TO EMPHASIZE THIS ISSUE OF DEEP CONCERN TO USG. POLOFF EMPHA-
SIZED USG'S COMMITMENT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND PRESIDENT
CARTER'S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR WHATEVER STATUS THE
PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WANT.

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3. JAZZAR REPLIED THAT HE WOULD REFER THE MATTER TO APPRO-
PRIATE AUTHORITIES AND LET US KNOW IF THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE
IN SYRIA'S POSITION. HE SAID THAT CUBA HAS NOT PRESSED THE
ISSUE THIS YEAR WITH SARG AS IT HAS DONE IN PAST YEARS. HE
ALSO NOTED THAT SARG HAD NOT HEARD FROM "MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL
LIBERATION" YET WHICH IS UNUSUAL. HE ADDED THAT CUBANS

IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH SARG ARE GENERALLY PLEASED WITH
DEVELOPMENT DN RELATIONS WITH USG AND BY BROAD OUTLINS
US AFRICAN POLICY. JAZZAR ALSO EXPECTED THAT POSITIONS OF
INDIA AND SOME OTHER WOULD WORK TO USG ADVANGAGE IN NAMCC
DELIBERATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. IN CONCLUSION, JAZZAR SAID
HE DID NOT THINK USG HAD ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT THIS YEAR.

4. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE SARG WILL FORMULATE ITS
POSITION WITH ONE EYE ON MAINTAINING COMSISTENT POSITION
REGARDING SELF-DETERMINATION AS ITS RELATES TO PALESTINIANS
IN ZULE EAST AND ANOTHER ON POLITICIAL ADVANTAGE TO BE
GAINED BY TRADE-OFF WITH CUBA OR OTHER INFLUENTIAL NAM MEMBERS
FOR SUPPORT ON SYRIA'S MIDDLE EAST POSITION. IMPACT OF
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO FBI HARASSMENT OF INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT
IN 1967 STATUS REFERENDUM WILL BE GREAT ONLY IF CUBANS OR
OTHER NAM MEMBERS MAKE IT ISSUE. WE DOUBT SARG WOULD TAKE THE LEAD
THOUGHTIT MAY FOLLOW CLOSE BEHIND.
MURPHP

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